

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 516

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

EUCOM VAIHINGEN

CINCUSAFE

USMISSION NATO

USNMR SHAPE

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 6619

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MOPS, PFOR, TU

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ON GOT

RESTRICTIONS ON US MILITARY ACTIVITIES

REF: ANKARA 6479 DTG 201005Z AUG 75

IN MY CALL ON FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL AUGUST 26 FOLLOWING
DISCUSSION OF THE CYPRUS AND ARMS EMBARGO ISSUES REPORTED
IN SEPTTEL (NOTAL) I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE THE FOLLOWING
TWO PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH THE PROVISIONAL STATUS OF US
INSTALLATIONS IN TURKEY:

A. THE CLOSURE OF THE PORT OF IZMIR FOR US MILITARY
CARGOES. I POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION REGARDING
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IZMIR PORT PRESAGED SERIOUS AND UNNECESSARY HARDSHIP

FOR THE NATO HEADQUARTERS AT IZMIR. THE ONLY TWO ALTERNATIVE PORTS THAT CAN BE USED ARE ISKENDERUN, WHICH CANNOT HANDLE LARGE CONTAINER OPERATIONS, AND ISTANBUL, WHICH IS CONGESTED AND FAR DISTANT. I SAID THAT WE WERE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE CLOSING OF THE PORT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A MISTAKE AND I ASKED IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER WITH A VIEW TO CABINET ACTION RE OPENING THE PORT. THE MINISTER RESPONDED GUARDEDLY AND WITH NO REPEAT NO MARKED SHOW OF INTEREST. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER.

B. CUSTOMS OFFICIALS' STRICT INTERPRETATIONS OF INSTRUCTIONS:
I NOTED THAT RIGID AND RESTRICTIVE INTERPRETATIONS BY A NUMBER OF CUSTOMS OFFICIALS OF THEIR INSTRUCTIONS WERE CAUSING ACUTE AND UNNECESSARY HARDSHIP TO U.S. PERSONNEL AND THAT I HAVE BECOME SUFFICIENTLY CONCERNED ABOUT THIS PROBLEM TO BRING IT TO HIS PERSONAL ATTENTION. AS AN EXAMPLE I CITED THE FACT THAT THIRTY-THREE FAMILIES AT KARAMURSEL HAVE NOT FOR MANY DAYS NOW BEEN ABLE TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY FOR ROUTINE TRANSFER BACK TO THE UNITED STATES BECAUSE THE YALOVA CUSTOMS OFFICIALS (YALOVA IS CAGLAYANGIL'S HOME TOWN) WERE, IN EFFECT, REFUSING TO CLEAR THE SHIPMENT OF THEIR HOUSEHOLD GOODS. THESE FAMILIES NATURALLY FELT THAT THEY WERE BEING HELD HOSTAGE UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES AND WERE MADE PARTICULARLY BITTER BY THE KNOWLEDGE THAT ELSEWHERE OTHER

CUSTOMS OFFICIALS DEALING WITH THE SAME MINISTRY OF CUSTOMS INSTRUCTIONS WERE APPLYING THEM IN A MORE RATIONAL AND LESS RESTRICTIVE FASHION. I TOLD THE FONMIN THAT HIS MINISTRY OFFICIALS WERE WORKING ON THE PROBLEM AND WERE HOPEFUL THAT IT WOULD BE SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED, BUT BECAUSE OF ITS SERIOUSNESS, I WANTED HIM PERSONALLY TO KNOW OF IT.

UNLIKE HIS RESPONSE TO THE IZMIR PORT PROBLEM, IN THIS INSTANCE CAGLAYANGIL SHOWED ANNOYANCE AND CONCERN. HE WAS PLEASED, HE SAID, THAT THE MINISTRY WAS BEING HELPFUL, BUT HE WANTED ME TO KNOW THAT HE PERSONALLY WOULD GET INTO IT AND TELEPHONE THE MINISTER OF CUSTOMS ABOUT IT.
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